

(d) 26 staff were taken up under penal action and in two cases, the matter is under investigation.

[English]

Encroachment of Railway Land

1003. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway land of more than 2400 hectares worth crores of rupees has been encroached upon in different parts of the country as reported in "The Hindustan Times", New Delhi of August 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of Railway land under encroachment and area of land unutilised, as on October 31, 1996, zone-wise;

(c) the value of land under encroachment, how and by which date Government propose to get the encroached land vacated;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any responsibility as to how the Railways in each zone enclosed such a vast area of land encroached and action taken thereon; and

(e) how the Government propose to utilise the unutilised land under each zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2457 hectares of Railway land is under encroachment and 24845 hectares is lying unutilised. Zone-wise details are given below :

| Zone | Area of land (in hectares) | |
|----------|----------------------------|------------|
| | Under encroachment | Unutilised |
| Central | 64 | 146 |
| Eastern | 85 | 2600 |
| Northern | 900 | 1828 |
| N.E. | 115 | 4560 |
| N.F. | 304 | 2610 |
| Southern | 83 | 2040 |
| S.C. | 84 | 8670 |
| S.E. | 715 | 501 |
| Western | 107 | 1890 |
| Total | 2457 | 24845 |

(c) Value of land is assessed by the Land Revenue Department of the State Government and varies from place to place. Action against the encroachers of Railway land is taken under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 continuously.

(d) Railway land is mostly encroached in cities. These are poor people who come to cities in search of

their livelihood and when they find that they cannot afford a dwelling because of high cost of dwelling in urban areas, they put up jhuggies on the railway land adjacent to railway stations, which is mostly in long strips along railway tracks. Action against these encroachers is taken promptly by the concerned officials. However, they have to act in accordance with the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The problems of removal of encroachments has also an element of law and order as the encroachers get general sympathy, being mostly from the poor sections of the society which enables them to continue on the encroached railway land despite sincere efforts of the Railways. Still, strict instructions have been reiterated to railway officials to prevent encroachment on railway land and remove encroachment.

(e) Unutilised land is kept reserved by the railways for locating their operational and service infrastructure and to meet future development requirements.

Demands by Coolies

1004. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a representation regarding the demands was handed over to Railway Minister on his visit to Kanpur in September, 1996 by the authorised coolies of Kanpur Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government are also aware of a large number of unauthorised coolies and their mode of working at Kanpur Railway Station; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demands made in the representation of railway coolie unions are as under :

(i) Immediate transfer of badges to the dependants/successors of deceased coolies.

(ii) Powers of transfer of badges should be delegated to Station Manager, Kanpur.

(iii) Posting of a railway official for dealing with the matters of coolies exclusively.

(iv) Coolies should be declared as Class-IV employee with all the facilities of a railway employee.

(v) The work of parcel/goods handling should be entrusted to the coolies.

(vi) Grant of medical and education facilities and also issue of proper uniform and railway passes to the coolies.